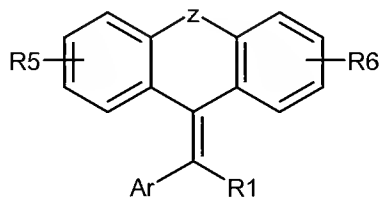


Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A compound of the formula:

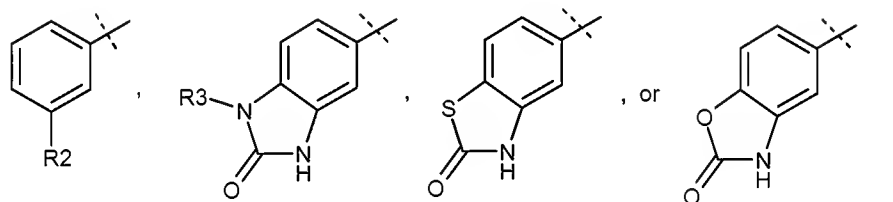


Formula I

wherein,

Z represents CH₂, S, or O;

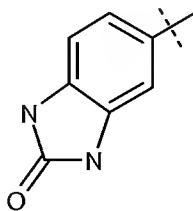
Ar represents a group of the formula:



R¹ represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R² represents amino or NH SO₂R⁴;

R³ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle, provided that where Ar represents:



then Z is other than O;

R⁴ represents independently at each occurrence (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R^5 and R^6 represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_4) alkyl- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_4) alkoxy- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, NHR^7 , or $N(R^7)_2$ wherein R^7 represents independently at each occurrence (C_1-C_6) alkyl or (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

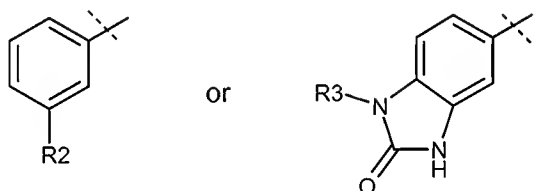
25. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R_1 represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

26. (New) The compound according to Claim 25 wherein R_1 represents hydrogen.

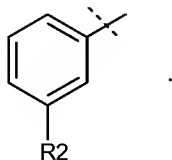
27. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Z represents S or O.

28. (New) The compound according to Claim 27 wherein Z represents S.

29. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

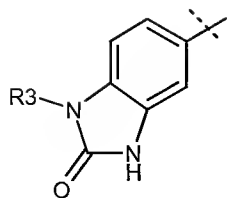


30. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:



31. (New) The compound according to Claim 30 wherein R_2 represents $NH SO_2CH_3$.

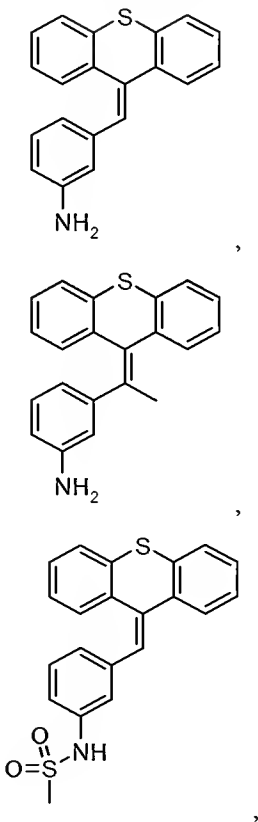
32. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

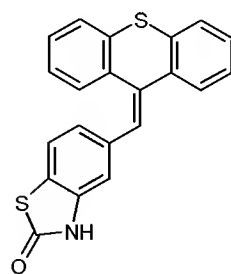
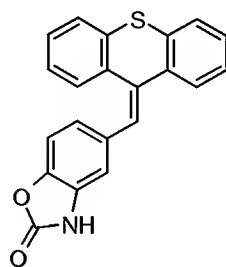
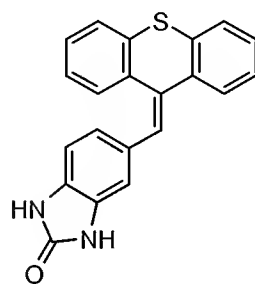
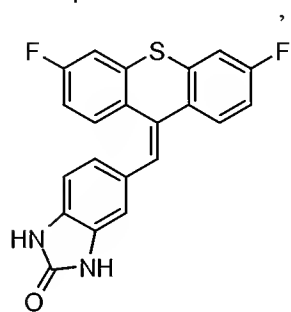
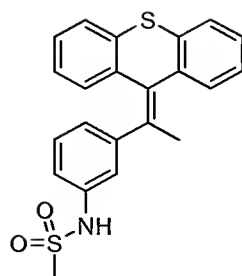


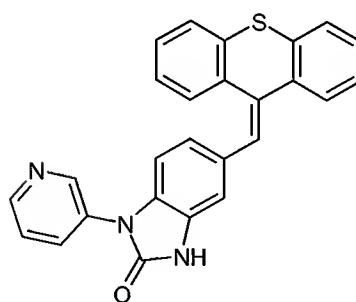
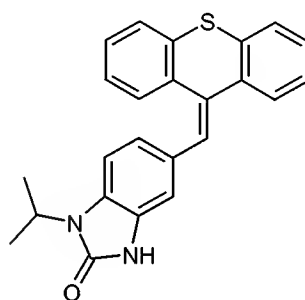
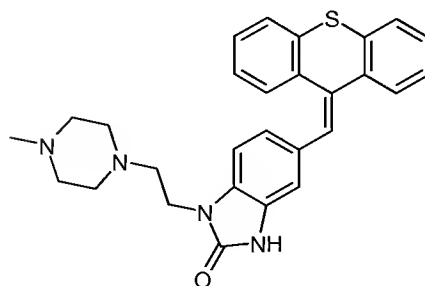
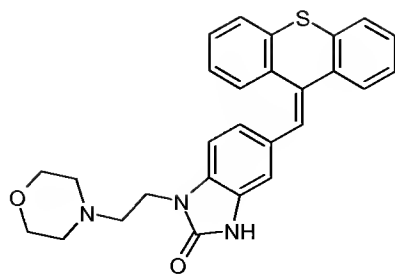
33. (New) The compound according to Claim 32 wherein R³ represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle .

34. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R⁵ and R⁶ represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or fluoro.

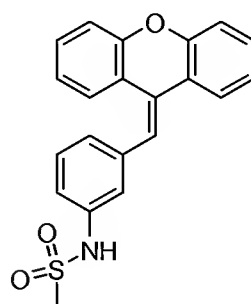
35. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of







, and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 24 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.